Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 31 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 01 Feb 2023

Forecast Issued on Monday 30 Jan 2023 at 16:46

Confidence: High for a cold, bright and showery day on Tuesday and for a change to milder, cloudier conditions from Wednesday, but lower for details regarding southward progress of slightly colder conditions on Friday.

Headline for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023: Sunny spells and snow showers. Very cold with westerly gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Heavy Rain	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers	Light snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
70%	80%	20%	20%	30%	30%	30%	40%

Forecast for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain through the early hours, these becoming persistent and occasionally heavy for a time, before clearing southeastwards later with clear spells developing. Then a bright day with a mix of sunny spells and blustery snow showers, these falling increasingly as rain below about 450m. The showers may be occasionally heavy and, during the evening become a little more frequent for a time, with the risk of temporary blizzard conditions on, or near, summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 60% in west, 75% in east, but chances fall in evening

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional, but periods at times in west and more generally in evening, above about 450-600m. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to several kilometres in overnight rain and a kilometre or less at times in snow showers and near zero in temporary blizzard conditions.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	41/51 SW	44/55 W	41/51 W	42/53 W	42/55 W	40/52 W	41/53 W	47/61 W	45/61 W
600	31/42 SW	33/44 SW	31/43 W	32/44 W	33/47 W	31/43 W	31/44 W	36/52 W	34/50 W
300	12/33 SW	11/35 W	11/32 W	14/37 W	14/38 W	13/35 W	13/36 W	16/43 W	16/41 W
Valley	11/30 SW	12/33 W	10/29 W	12/32 W	15/36 W	13/31 W	15/34 W	17/40 W	17/38 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-8	2/-6	1/-8	-1/-10	-2/-11	-1/-11	-2/-11	-2/-12	-2/-12
600	3/-4	4/-3	3/-4	2/-6	1/-7	1/-6	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7
300	5/1	6/2	5/2	4/-0	4/-0	4/-0	4/-1	3/-2	3/-2
Valley	7/4	7/4	7/4	6/3	6/2	6/3	6/2	6/1	6/1
Freezing Level*	1200m	1400m	900m	700m	600m	600m	700m	700m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 65mph expected over ridges and summits, especially through the evening. Increasing chill effect.

Forecast for Wednesday 01 Feb 2023

Weather: Snow showers giving way, through the early hours, to a more prolonged spell of rain and sleet, with snow for a time above about 750m. Then a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain, with a little sleet or wet snow on the higher summits, heaviest and most persistent over western fells.

Maximum wind: Westerly 35-45mph, gusts around 65mph over ridges and summits, easing 25-30mph, gusts around 50mph, by early afternoon

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance over western fells but nearer 25% over eastern fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m, with patches below in west, but cloud more occasional above 750m at times in east. Away from cloud visibility good falling to several kilometres in rain and a kilometre or less in summit snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 5 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 8 Celsius by day.
At 800m: Around minus 1 Celsius rising to plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 700m rising above the summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Monday 30 January. Location: Helvellyn summit at 14:30. Temperature: minus 0.1 deg C. Maximum wind speed 31.2mph. Wind chill: minus 9.5 deg C. Average wind speed: 25.6mph.
Full report:
There was an overnight sprinkling of new snow above 900m on the Lake District fells but generally a slow thaw continued with patchy old snow above 750m on SE through NE aspects. Summit temperatures were hovering around freezing.
Where the snow has been compacted beneath walkers feet on paths and the Helvellyn Edges it is now hard and icy. This is particularly relevant on Swirral Edge where there is a large and unavoidable patch of steep and icy snow on the exit slopes. Even though this is only a short section crampons and ice axe are currently essential to ascend or descend Swirral Edge. There is a significant potential for a long and tumbling slide through boulders if a simple slip or trip is not quickly arrested.
Away from popular paths and at lower elevations the snow is wet, soft and sugary. However the forecasted drop in temperatures will quickly refreeze the old snowpack producing firm and icy neve. Fresh snow is also forecast to settle down to 500m
The cornices (snow overhangs) above the east face of Helvellyn were well frozen and 2-3 meters across but there was plenty of evidence of cracking and slumping so please continue to give them a wide berth. They will continue to grow and become more unstable on Tuesday with snow showers driven in on a westerly wind.
Conditions on Tuesday are forecast to be extremely challenging with gale force winds, significant wind chill, spindrift and fresh windslab developing on an old icy snowpack. Full winter clothing and equipment including ice axe and crampons and the necessary experience to use them will be essential for anyone venturing above the snow line (500m). Goggles will also be indispensable for navigation and general 'enjoyment!'.

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